

In the claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system for detecting and selectively preventing the forwarding of an electronic message, wherein the message is sent by a sender and received by ~~to~~ a recipient, and wherein the message has a message body and a message header, the system comprising:

a wireless gateway in communication with an electronic mail client;

a message selection module wherein the message selection module allows the sender to purposely identify selected messages by including message identifiers in the message body;

a message database in communication with the gateway for storing a first message identifier associated with the electronic message; and

a search module in communication with the message database for determining whether a second message identifier associated with a ~~forwarded~~ received electronic message is contained in the message database and, if the message database contains the second message identifier, preventing forwarding of the ~~forwarded~~ received message by the recipient.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the message selection module identifies selected messages by including dot commands in the message body.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the message selection module identifies selected messages by including commands in the message header.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the gateway applies a set of default policies to the electronic message.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting and selectively preventing the forwarding of an electronic message after receipt by the recipient, wherein the electronic message has a unique message identifier, the method comprising:

coding the electronic message to indicate a request to prevent forwarding;
scanning the electronic message for a request to prevent forwarding;
storing the message identifier in a blacklist database whenever the
request is found; and
blocking forwarding by the recipient of the electronic message that has been received by the recipient when the message identifier matches an entry in the blacklist database.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the electronic message includes a message body, and wherein scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent forwarding.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the electronic message includes a message header, and wherein scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent forwarding.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for detecting and selectively preventing the forwarding of an electronic message received by a recipient, wherein the electronic message has a unique message identifier, the method comprising:

means for coding the electronic message to indicate a request to prevent forwarding;

means for scanning the electronic message for a request to prevent forwarding;
means for storing the message identifier in a blacklist database whenever the
request is found; and

means for blocking forwarding by the recipient of the electronic message that has been received by the recipient whenever the message identifier matches an entry in the blacklist database.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the electronic message includes a message body, and wherein the means for scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent forwarding.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the electronic message includes a message header, and wherein the means for scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent forwarding.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising:
means for selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

coding an electronic message to indicate a request to prevent forwarding;
scanning [[an]] the electronic message for a request to prevent forwarding;
storing the a message identifier in a blacklist database whenever the request is found; and
blocking forwarding by a recipient of the electronic message once it has been received by the recipient whenever the message identifier matches an entry in the blacklist database.

15. (Original) The medium of claim 14, wherein the electronic message includes a message body, and wherein scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent forwarding.

16. (Original) The medium of claim 15, wherein the electronic message includes a message header, and wherein scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent forwarding.

17. (Original) The medium of claim 16, further comprising:
selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding.
18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions that when executed by a computer perform the acts of:
receiving user input for preventing forwarding of one or more electronic mail messages being sent to a recipient;
storing matching input in a blacklist database; and
upon a subsequent attempt to forward one of the one or more received electronic mail messages by the recipient who has received the one or more electronic mail messages, referencing the user input relative to the matching input in the blacklist database and preventing forwarding by the recipient.
19. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein receiving user input comprises receiving user input included in the header of an electronic mail message being created at a client computer where the user input from the header is referenced upon an attempt to forward the electronic mail message.
20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein receiving user input comprises offering an option for a user to select within a graphical user interface when generating an electronic mail message at a client computer, the option being for preventing forwarding of the electronic mail message where the user input to the graphical user interface is referenced upon an attempt to forward the electronic mail message.
21. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein receiving user input to prevent forwarding comprises configuring a gateway of a network that the one or more electronic mail messages pass through to prevent forwarding of the one or more electronic mail messages.